MARVEL LEGACY
THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAR
18
X-MEN
GOLD
GUGGENHEIM
LASHLEY
PRIANTO

X-MEN GOLD

GENETICALLY GIFTED WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE NEXT STAGE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION. WHILE THE WORLD HATES AND FEARS THEM, KITTY PRYDE HAS REFORMED THE TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES KNOWN AS THE X-MEN TO USE THEIR POWERS FOR GOOD AND SPREAD A POSITIVE IMAGE OF MUTANTKIND.

PREVIOUSLY IN *X-MEN GOLD...*

KOLOGOTH, AN ALIEN THE X-MEN HAD HELD CAPTIVE AT THE XAVIER INSTITUTE, MANAGED TO SIGNAL HIS PEOPLE FOR ASSISTANCE. A MASSIVE STARSHIP CAME TO HIS RESCUE AND WARPED AWAY, BUT NOT BEFORE PARTIALLY DESTROYING THE SCHOOL AND TRAPPING KITTY AND NIGHTCRAWLER ABOARD.

THE REMAINING X-MEN, ALONG WITH ARMOR AND INK, MOUNTED A COUNTER-RESCUE INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE AND CRASH-LANDED ON THE PLANET DARTAYUS. AFTER AN INITIAL SKIRMISH, THE X-MEN AND DARTAYAN GOVERNMENT REACHED A BARGAIN: THE X-MEN WILL FIND KOLOGOTH AND HIS FOLLOWERS AND TAKE THEM OUT.

MEANWHILE, NIGHTCRAWLER ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE KOLOGOTH'S DETENTION IN THE MOST DANGEROUS WAY POSSIBLE: BLIND TELEPORTATION. TELEPORTING WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS, NIGHTCRAWLER FOUND HIMSELF MERGED WITH THE SOLID MASS OF THE TEMPLE OF SCYTHIAN AND IN AGONIZING PAIN...

THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAR

PART 3

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KITTY PRYDE

STORM
ORORO MUNROE

NIGHTCRAWLER
KURT WAGNER

COLOSSUS
PIOTR RASPUTIN

PRESTIGE
RACHEL GREY

OLD MAN LOGAN

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR MUTANT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.
I DON'T KNOW, MR. BALLINGER. THAT NUMBER SEEMS HIGH.
AN ALIEN SPACESHIP CRASHED THROUGH THE PLACE. DAMAGE CONTROL IS ACTUALLY CUTTING YOU GUYS A BREAK, MS. ATTILA.
AQUILLA.
AND I CHECKED OUR RECORDS AND YOUR BID CAME IN AT TEN TIMES WHAT OTHER CONTRACTORS CHARGED US FOR SIMILAR REBUILDS.
THIS PLACE USED TO BE UP IN WESTCHESTER, RIGHT?
YES. AND AFTER THAT, LIMBO.
LONG STORY.
POINT BEING, MS. ACRYLIC--
AQUILLA.
--YOU WEREN'T PAYING NEW YORK CITY PRICES BEFORE.
EXCUSE ME--
S'NUTHIN PERSONAL. JUST THE GOING RATE. WHICH WE'VE GIVEN YOU A BREAK ON AND--
I MEAN, EXCUSE ME, I'M GETTING A TELEPATHIC "PHONE CALL."

SO THAT'S A THING NOW.
YES, CECILIA?
ALL RIGHT. I'M ON MY WAY.
I'M SORRY. I HAVE TO GO. WOULD YOU MIND RESCHEDULING, MR. BALLANTINE?
SURE. AND IT'S BALLINGER.
SEE HOW IT FEELS?
"HOW DOES SHE FEEL?"
MEDICAL FLOOR.
STILL COMATOSE, SO IT'S HARD TO SAY.
BUT THIS MORNING, RACHEL JUST DEVELOPED A SKIN CONDITION THAT HAS ME MORE THAN A LITTLE CONCERNED.
SKIN CONDITION?
THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO ME.
I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO DESCRIBE IT.

THE PLANET DARTAYUS.
IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE.
THE EARTHERS HAVE AGREED?
YOU'VE OFFERED THEM THEIR COMRADES BACK AND ASSURANCE OF UNMOLESTED PASSAGE OFF DARTAYUS.
WHY WOULDN'T THEY AGREE?
BECAUSE THEY ARE A PETTY LOT.
BECAUSE WE ATTACKED THEM, HURT THEM, CAPTURED TWO OF THEM.
READY THE FEMALE FOR TRANSPORT.
I'LL DEAL WITH THE BLUE ONE.
AUGUR?
YES, MY LOVE?
WHERE... IS THE BLUE ONE?

AAAGGGGHH!

BAMF

CRACK

GNG!

HGH. GHG. HGG...

LUCKY IDIOT.

TELEPORTING BLIND.

INTO A *STATUE.*

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

THAT YOU'D BE DEAD IF YOU HADN'T, THAT'S WHAT.

AND THAT YOU'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW IF HEAVEN WOULD HAVE YOU BACK.

LUCKY IDIOT.

PARLIAMENT.
THE SEAT OF POWER ON DARTAYUS.

SAY THAT AGAIN, BUB.

THE CRIMINAL KOLOGOTH HAS AGREED TO RETURN YOUR FRIENDS IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR EVACUATION OF THIS PLANET.

WHAT I THOUGHT YOU SAID.

IT'S A TRAP.

I DON'T THINK SO.

HISAKO'S RIGHT. IT'S THE SMART PLAY.

WE CAN DO A WHOLE LOT MORE DAMAGE HERE TRYIN' TO RECOVER KITTY AND KURT THAN IF HE JUST GIVES 'EM BACK AND SENDS US ON OUR MERRY WAY.

SO, WHAT, WE GET KITTY AND KURT AND JUST LEAVE? TURN A BLIND EYE TO EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHAT'S "GOING ON HERE" IS NOT YOUR CONCERN, EARTHER.

JUST SET UP THE MEET.

WE'RE GONNA NEED A SHIP, TOO. OUR RIDE DIDN'T HANDLE OUR GETTING HERE TOO WELL.

IT SHALL BE ARRANGED.

AND I WILL DO WHAT I CAN TO FIND YOUR OTHER MISSING COMRADE.

YOU *DON'T* FIND HIM--OR WE *DO* AND HE AIN'T IN MINT CONDITION--THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY, BUB.

SO WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU ARE TO BE FREED.
JUST LIKE THAT.
I HAVE PLANS FOR THIS WORLD.
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS DO NOT FACTOR INTO THEM.
SPEAKING OF, WHERE'S KURT?
Y'KNOW-- BLUE, FURRY DEMON? PROBABLY WANTS TO FEED YOU YOUR EYES BY NOW?
YOUR FRIEND IS DEAD.

YOU'RE LYING.
IF BELIEVING SO KEEPS YOUR GRIEF AT BAY.
MY LIEGE...
...WE HAVE ARRIVED.
THE KAVANGIAN PLATEAU...
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO MEAN SOMETHING TO US.
JUST NOTING MY INTEREST IN KOLOGOTH'S SELECTION OF THIS PLACE.
IT'S HOLY GROUND TO THE FOLLOWERS OF SCYTHIAN. A LONG-DEAD RELIGION.

THINK YOU'RE MISTAKING US FOR PEOPLE WHO GIVE A DAMN, BUB.
KATYA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M PEEVED.
WHERE'S MR. WAGNER?
"GREEN PSORIASIS" HERE SAYS HE'S DEAD.
NOT POSSIBLE. ELF CLAIMS HE'S *IMMORTAL* NOW.
I KNOW.
WHICH MAKES YOU A *LIAR*.
ONLY SCYTHIAN IS IMMUNE TO DEATH.
YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING, PUNKIN'?
THAT KURT ESCAPED AND OUR FRIEND HERE DOESN'T WANT US STICKING AROUND TO FIND HIM.

MY FRIENDS HAVE A POINT.
MIGHT IT BE THE CASE YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS GOING ON HERE YOU DON'T WANT US FINDING OUT ABOUT?
YES.
I IMAGINE THIS WOULD BE OF SOME INTEREST TO YOU, COMMANDER.
IN POINT OF FACT...
...I ALREADY KNOW LORD KOLOGOTH'S PLANS.
WHOA!

I HAVE BEEN EMBEDDED WITH GOVERNMENTAL FORCES SINCE THE START OF THE CONFLICT.
THE VESSEL THEY PROVIDED YOU IS CAPABLE OF INTERDIMENSIONAL TRAVEL.
LEAVE WITH IT AND YOUR LIVES.
I WON'T MAKE THIS OFFER AGAIN.
久子。だいじょぶですか？
私のサオニックの鎧はこの範囲で私を守りません。
しかし彼を連れて行くことができますか？
絶対に。
YOUR CALL, PUNKIN'.
THEY'VE GOT A DAMPENER ON ME. I CAN'T ACCESS MY POWERS...

NOT THAT I NEED THEM TO KICK THIS GUY'S ASS.
SHRAM
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
KILL THEM ALL.
SORRY TO DRAG YOU OUT HERE.
NO, YOU AIN'T.
NO, I AIN'T.
BUT I'M APPRECIATIVE.
SURE. WHAT?
THEN DO ME A FAVOR?

GET DOWN.
YOU HELD STORM AS BACKUP?
SEEMED LIKE SOMETHING YOU WOULD DO.
YEAH, WELL...
...THEY BROUGHT BACKUP, TOO.

X-MEN, DARTAYUS へようこそ...*
...надеюсь, что вы переживете опыт.**
*WELCOME TO DARTAYUS, X-MEN... -TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.
**...HOPE YOU SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE. -TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.
BAM
BAM
AAAAGGGHH!!!
ERIC!

ERIC...
IT'S...GNG... ALL RIGHT...
THE LAST FEW MONTHS...
...I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY TATTOO ARTIST BUSY.
HAD HIM ADD A *HEALING FACTOR*...

SHRAM
WE NEED TO FIND KURT.
DON'T DISAGREE, SWEETIE.
...AND A COUPLE OTHER THINGS.
GO. I WILL KEEP THIS RABBLE BUSY.
DID SHE JUST CALL ME "SWEETIE"?

INK, ESTABLISH A PSI-LINK BETWEEN EVERYBODY.
ORORO, THE GREEN ONE'S THEIR LEADER.
TAKE HIM OUT.
I KNOW OUR LANGUAGE DIFFERENCE MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND ME...
THOUGH I'M SURE YOU DON'T NEED TO SPEAK ENGLISH TO UNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS HERE.
OR, BETTER YET, FOR A RIDE.
DONE, KITTEN.

OH, I'VE BEEN AROUND YOUR KIND ENOUGH TO SPEAK YOUR TONGUE.
THEN YOU KNOW I MEAN TO DROP YOU UNLESS YOU TELL YOUR LOYALISTS TO STAND DOWN.
YOU ARE BLUFFING. YOUR KIND IS SQUEAMISH ABOUT KILLING.
BESIDES, I PREFER THIS VANTAGE.
THAT IS SCYTHIAN. MY LORD AND MASTER.
AND THE TIME OF THE RISING IS NIGH.
RELIGION DOESN'T WIN WARS.
THAT'S A MERE STATUE.
NO, BARTHER...

...SCYTHIAN IS A GOD.
GOTT LEBENDIG...
TO BE CONTINUED...

X-MEN

MARC **GUGGENHEIM** WRITER
CHRIS **ROBINSON** ASSISTANT EDITOR
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THE GOLD STANDARD

Wow,
I've been six years away from Marvel comics in general. Always was a fan of the X-Men since 1983. I must admit X-MEN GOLD is really bad. No real plot, no sense of continuity, poorly drawn. And what's with those Wolverines from the future, past or son from alternate dimension...boring and no-good fight scenes, no challenges, no real cliffhangers in about the six issues I've read... I'm back to manga, X-Men is a dead franchise....

-FX

Gee, FX, tell us how you really feel. Seriously though, I'm sorry the book isn't your cup of tea. While I won't defend the writing, I have to respectfully disagree with you on the art front. I think our artists have simply been killing it. Oh well. Different strokes for different folks. Thanks for giving us a look and for taking the time to write in.

Dear X-MEN GOLD team,

I have to say, I'm disappointed. When the book was first pitched, I loved the idea; the Claremont era of X-Men is one of the best, because of the prioritization of relationships and human dynamics over pointless fighting. And Kitty leading the team? Spectacular!

However, each new issue brings more dread, from the sudden dark turn of the X-Cutioner (murdering new students?!) to the forced relationship revelation of Kurt and Rachel. But the thing that is truly a problem is Kitty and Piotr being shoehorned back into a relationship (marriage?!).

Piotr and Kitty worked conceptually as unrequited crushes, but, even in previous runs, them getting together is hugely problematic. Colossus, an adult, having sway over a girl's emotional and physical being is rife with all sorts of unsubtle issues. It's not a relationship to be idolized.

As a grown woman who had a relationship with an older man when she was a teen, I can safely say I would never, as an adult, want to be in a relationship with that person ever again. At its very best, Kitty and Piotr's relationship is icky and based in unequal power dynamics, where Piotr has control and Kitty has minimal agency. At its worst... Well, it's very bad.

I am always hopeful that the series will improve and that Kitty will not be defined by her romantic relationship with a dude, but that does not seem to be the route you are going.

I love Marvel, but this sort of indelicate, retrograde handling of characters, especially female characters, is heartbreaking.

Sincerely,
Ellie H
Holyoke, MA

Well, we managed to go seventeen issues without receiving any negative letters, so I guess that's something...

Ellie, thank you for your letter. You raise some very important points about Kitty and Peter's relationship. In doing so, however, you've highlighted an issue that's even thornier and complicated than gender dynamics and power differentials: aging in comic books. (Yes, folks, that was a joke. Please don't Tweet at me.)

In my opinion, when Kitty and Peter first began their flirtation, the age difference between them made their interactions creepy even by the comparatively "forgiving" standards of 1980. But then something unexpected happened: over 30 years of continuity passed. And as everyone who reads comics knows, the medium has always played fast and loose with the aging of characters. This has never been truer where Kitty and Peter are concerned, with Kitty seeming to age at a more advanced rate than Peter, who remained--as most comic characters are--frozen in amber. As a result of this strange phenomenon--which can only happen in comics--the age gap between them appeared to narrow.

As a result, the ick factor and power differential slowly evaporated over the course of those 30 years to the point where Kitty's decision--and it was Kitty's decision--to sleep with Peter in the pages of Astonishing X-Men Vol. 1 was one of total, mature agency.

At least, that's my read of X-Men history. Your mileage may vary. (Oh, and speaking of X-Men history and your contention that the Kurt/Rachel relationship is "forced," take a look at EXCALIBUR Vol. 1 #16.)

To the X-Team:

I know that you have heard this many times, but I am sure that you are not tired of hearing it: X-MEN GOLD is amazing!

Oh thank god. After the first two letters, I was getting worried...

Colossus is by far one of my favorite super heroes, so I am always happy to see him in a place of prominence in an X-Men title. I am also glad to see Kitty Pryde back from outer space and with her family. I have hoped for some time that Piotr and Kitty could be permanently linked, rather than this together, permanently separated, together, permanently separated pattern of late.

Thaddeus, meet my friend Ellie. Ellie, meet Thaddeus.

After reading X-MEN GOLD #11, it seems my hopes may be coming true. Please, don't dash my dreams!

I hope you read GOLD #16. (Ellie, you might wanna skip that one.)

Not to tell you how to do your job (you clearly already know how), but I would love to see Piotr have an awkward conversation with Old Man Logan asking for Kitty's hand in marriage. I know it is old-fashioned, but I think it would be a great reference to Kitty and Logan's student/mentor relationship and could give opportunity for humor. Whatever you decide to do with these characters, I look forward to reading. The X-Men are in good hands again!

Keep up the good work!

Thaddeus Hofheinz

Love the Old Man Logan pitch. Who knows what the future holds? Thanks for taking the time to write in.

Hey, y'all!

Just read X-MEN GOLD #9. WOW. While GOLD #1-8 have been nothing short of fun and spectacular, it seems that this book has finally made some significant statements (politically as well as romantically)!

GOD LOVES MAN KILLS is the reason I love the X-MEN above all other super hero titles. This felt like a fresh take on that. I especially loved the imagery of Kitty wielding a tattered American flag in the scrap with Whiplash. Defending humans with the symbol of a country pushing to deport them. So poignant, so perfect.

LOVE the work. It seems you do, too!

Peace and Blessings,
Eric

Wow. There's no higher standard in my mind than* GOD LOVES MAN KILLS. *Thank you, Eric. I am humbled.

And we're definitely out of room for this issue. Thank you all for the thought-provoking letters, positive and negative. Differences of opinion are what make life interesting.

Be good to each other.

Best,
Marc Guggenheim
Encino, California

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HOUSE OF X

In the HOUSE OF X, we're getting ready for something really special, RESURRXION PHASE II. That's right, we'll be cycling in some new ongoings and a few special limited series.

While I can't talk about all of what's in the cooker, I can tell you that lovers of the classic on-again, off-again romance between Rogue and Gambit have a special treat in store with a ROGUE & GAMBIT five-issue limited series coming out in January. It's by KELLY (HAWKEYE, A-FORCE) THOMPSON and PERE (DEADPOOL VS. PUNISHER) PÉREZ, and the two are bringing a smart, sassy and seductive flavor to this dysfunctional duo.

Then there's LEGION, another five-issue limited series by PETER (X-FORCE, X-STATIX) MILLIGAN and WILFREDO (MOON KNIGHT, SECRET EMPIRE: BRAVE NEW WORLD) TORRES. Peter brings his own brand of brilliant insanity while Wilfredo's keen sense of body language and expression adds to the inherent eccentricity of the character and the story. I highly recommend both of these books.

Now for teasing upcoming projects, I can say that there are at least two new ongoing series in development. One completely unexpected and the other a return of a fan favorite. It's too early to get into any more than that, but I'm sure most X-Fans will be excited when we make the announcements. Keep your eyes and ears open!

Now onto our checklist of the wonderful world of X:

X-MEN GOLD:
Kitty Pryde takes charge and leads a new team into a heroic age!
Issue #18 on sale now!

X-MEN BLUE:
The time-displaced original five join their greatest enemy, Magneto. Evil mutants, you're toast!
Issue #17 on sale now!

WEAPON X:
The Weapon X program is back, but this time they are building weapons of mutant destruction. Old Man Logan, Sabretooth and a team of stealthy killers take the bloody battle back to them.
Issue #13!

ALL-NEW WOLVERINE:
A virus from another world threatens to wipe out mankind. Kicking off an epic tale that will take Laura Kinney to the stars.
Issue #29!

GENERATION X:
Jubilee and a band of mutant misfits in the new Xavier Institute. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING!
Issue #85 on sale now!

JEAN GREY:
She's the leader of X-MEN BLUE, but what does she do in her spare time? What would you do if you had a premonition of the Phoenix Force returning?
Issue #11!

CABLE:
A new villain is traveling through time to assemble a doomsday weapon. Cable's most dangerous mission ever!
Issue #153!

ICEMAN:
The coolest hero on the planet, Bobby Drake the elder, in super-hero solo adventures.
Issue #9!

OLD MAN LOGAN:
Who is the Scarlet Samurai?!
Issue #33!

ASTONISHING X-MEN:
Fan-favorite characters battle one of the X-Men's most dangerous foes!
Issue #7!

Make sure to let us know your thoughts. You can email us at officex@marvel.com (add "OKAY TO PRINT" in the subject line). And don't forget about #XMENMONDAY on Twitter, where I'll post some tidbit from one or more of the books and address your questions. I can't guarantee an answer for everybody, but I'll do my darndest!

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X-MEN GOLD

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X-MEN GOLD #19 IN TWO WEEKS

GENERATION X #85
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